

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 592**

Introduced by Dierks, 40.

Read first time January 21, 2009

Committee: Health and Human Services

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to the Rural Health Systems and Professional  
2 Incentive Act; to amend section 71-5653, Revised Statutes  
3 Cumulative Supplement, 2008; to redefine a term; and to  
4 repeal the original section.

5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. Section 71-5653, Revised Statutes Cumulative  
2 Supplement, 2008, is amended to read:

3           71-5653 For purposes of the Rural Health Systems and  
4 Professional Incentive Act:

5           (1) Approved medical specialty means family practice,  
6 general practice, general internal medicine, general pediatrics,  
7 general surgery, geriatrics, geropsychiatry, obstetrics/gynecology,  
8 and psychiatry;

9           (2) Approved dental specialty means general practice,  
10 pediatric dentistry, and oral surgery;

11           (3) Approved mental health practice program means an  
12 approved educational program consisting of a master's or doctorate  
13 degree with the focus being primarily therapeutic mental health and  
14 meeting the educational requirements for licensure in mental health  
15 practice or psychology by the department;

16           (4) Commission means the Nebraska Rural Health Advisory  
17 Commission;

18           (5) Department means the Division of Public Health of the  
19 Department of Health and Human Services;

20           (6) Doctorate-level mental health student means a  
21 graduate student enrolled in or accepted for enrollment in an  
22 approved mental health practice program leading to a doctorate  
23 degree and meeting the educational requirements for licensure in  
24 psychology by the department;

25           (7) Full-time practice means a minimum of forty hours per

1 week;

2 (8) Health care means both somatic and mental health care  
3 services;

4 (9) Master's level mental health student means a graduate  
5 student enrolled in or accepted for enrollment in an approved  
6 mental health practice program leading to a master's degree and  
7 meeting the educational requirements for licensure in mental health  
8 practice by the department;

9 (10) Office means the Office of Rural Health;

10 (11) Qualified educational debts means government and  
11 commercial loans obtained by students for postsecondary education  
12 tuition, other educational expenses, and reasonable living  
13 expenses, as determined by the department, but does not include  
14 loans received under the act or the Nebraska Medical Student  
15 Assistance Act; and

16 (12) Rural means located within any county in Nebraska  
17 having a population of less than fifteen thousand inhabitants and  
18 not included within a metropolitan statistical area as defined by  
19 the United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

20 Sec. 2. Original section 71-5653, Revised Statutes  
21 Cumulative Supplement, 2008, is repealed.